

AL-APSE Award Categories and Descriptions

1. **Personal Achievement:** Awarded to individual successfully employed in small, medium or large business as a result of participating in a supported employment program.
2. **Family of the Year:** Awarded to family, guardian or other support source that has made individuals success in employment, school or independent living possible as a result of their support.
3. **Professional of the Year:** Awarded to person working in the field of rehabilitation/employment/housing, etc. that goes above and beyond their job description. Past winners have included job coaches, rehabilitation counselors, school counselors, counselors, etc.
4. **Small Employer:** Awarded to an employer with less than 50 employees that has been supportive of employment for individuals with disabilities. Typical winners hire individuals, allow accommodations, go above and beyond to support the successful employment outcomes of individuals receiving supports through ADRS, ADMH, and other funded provider agencies.
5. **Large Employer:** Awarded to an employer with more than 50 employees that has been supportive of employment for individuals with disabilities. Typical winners hire individuals, allow accommodations, go above and beyond to support the successful employment outcomes of individuals receiving supports through ADRS, ADMH, and other funded provider agencies.
6. **AL-APSE Leadership (Brenda McComb):** Awarded to an individual that is a “mover and shaker”, leading an agency or organization, influencing policy, supporting a staff that is working to expand and improve employment outcomes. Past winners have included rehab administrators, DMH administrators, agency executives, etc.
7. **Educator of the Year:** New Award for AL-APSE to recognize an individual employed as an educator working to improve the lives of youth with disabilities. The winner should be someone that goes above and beyond just providing instruction and curriculum.
8. **Innovation or Best Practice:** Awarded to an individual, organization, agency, etc. “thinking outside the box” to improve employment outcomes and the lives of people with disabilities. Examples could include development of new program that results in better employment outcomes i.e. Project GATE, Shelby Arc Angel Art, etc.
9. **Jim Green Agency of the Year:** Awarded to an organization/agency that is working to provide quality services to individuals with disabilities that is resulting in more integration and better employment opportunities. This agency is recognized as a leader in their community. Typical winners are supported by funding from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Department of Mental Health.